

Green, LindaE

From: Zahra Hirji via iFOIA.org <Zhirji.125872@mail.ifoia.org>
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2018 5:40 PM
To: FOIA HQ
Subject: Public Records Request
Attachments: FOIA_Pruitt_TwitterDMs_2_23.pdf

Reply ABOVE THIS LINE

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I request access to and copies of all direct messages sent and received to and from the Twitter account "@EPAScottPruitt." The date range for this request is between February 17, 2017, the day he was confirmed as EPA administrator, and the date this request is processed. Attached is a formal request for public records. Please feel free to contact me at this email address, or Zahra.Hirji@buzzfeed.com or by phone at (202) 352-0557 with any questions.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Zahra Hirji

This message was sent via iFOIA.org. If you have questions about iFOIA, please refer to the [About page](#) or email ifoia-help@rcfp.org.

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Zahra Hirji
Reporter
BuzzFeed News
1630 Connecticut Ave NW, Fl 7
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 352-0557

February 23, 2018

Larry Gottesman
National Freedom of Information Officer
(2822T)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460
(202) 566-1667

FOIA REQUEST
Fee waiver requested

Dear Larry Gottesman,

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I request access to and copies of all direct messages sent and received to and from the Twitter account "[@EPAScottPruitt](#)." The date range for this request is between February 17, 2017, the day he was confirmed as EPA administrator, and the date this request is processed.

I would like to receive the information in an electronic text format that is searchable, via email or a thumb drive.

I am making this request as a journalist and intend to use the information in order to write and publish articles for public dissemination. BuzzFeed News employs over 100 reporters who cover a wide range of news topics. Therefore, I request that the EPA recognize BuzzFeed's news media status and **waive any fees** associated with responding, including research and duplication.

Release of the information is in the public interest because it will contribute significantly to public understanding of government operations and activities. The "[@EPAScottPruitt](#)" account has announced and communicated major policy initiatives, meetings, and actions carried out by the agency.

The release of these messages will contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government, specifically how the operators of the account, representing the Administrator, are using an online platform to communicate agency decisions and actions that affect the public. As these messages are readily available and easily downloadable to the owner of the [@EPAScottPruitt](#) account, requiring no search time, I request that this request be considered a "simple" FOIA request for purposes of assigning requests to any queue for responses maintained by your office.

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. I will also expect you to release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. I, reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of

fees.

Please provide expedited processing of this request which concerns a matter of urgency, where Pruitt is involved in several areas of ongoing public debate and in some cases, Congressional or internal investigation. For example, Pruitt's habit of taking first class travel is both the subject of a House investigation and the EPA's Inspector General. Pruitt's proposal to have a debate on climate science (the red team/blue team) has attracted interest from the scientific community and Congress. Moreover, the agency's proposed repeal of the Clean Power Plan is the subject of listening sessions across the nation, and the delay or rollback of other rules are the subject of ongoing litigation. Information about Pruitt's communication on Twitter, and/or people's communications to him in DMs, would help expand the public's understanding of EPA's position and agenda on these issues.

I would appreciate your communicating with me by email or telephone, rather than by mail.

I certify that my statements concerning the need for expedited processing are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I look forward to your determination regarding my request for expedited processing within 10 calendar days, as the statute requires.

Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,
Zahra Hirji